

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed September 21, 2005, the present application has been carefully reviewed and amended. Entry of the foregoing amendment and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the attention to the application, and the allowance (or designation of allowable subject matter) of Claims 9 - 11, 15 - 28, and 31 - 37.

Rejections under 35 USC §102

Claims 1 - 3, 7 - 8, 12 - 14, and 29 - 30 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being unpatentable over Thoma (US 5,177,662). [Sept. 21, 2005 OA, Pg. 2]

Thoma is relied upon to disclose: a sensor (10) comprising:

- an elongate first conductor (12);
- an elongate second conductor (13); and
- a nonconductive web/dielectric (11) intermediate the first polymeric conductor and the second polymeric conductor to maintain a substantially fixed separation distance between the first and the second polymeric conductor (figure 1). [Sept. 21, 2005 OA, Pg. 2]

As seen in Figure 1 of Thoma, the first and the second conductors (12, 13) are exposed on the surface of the layer 11. Specifically,

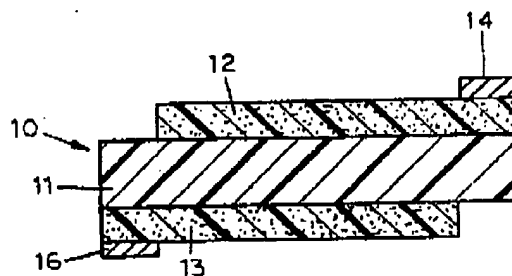



FIG. 1

As amended Claim 1, recites in part, "the web, the first polymeric conductor and the second polymeric conductor embedded within a non conductive polymer." Thus, the exposed conductors of Thoma do not anticipate the present conductors embedded within a non conductive polymer. Applicant respectfully submits the outstanding rejection has been overcome.

Upon allowance of a generic claim, applicant respectfully requests the opportunity to add claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim, as provided by 37 CFR 1,141. Subject to this opportunity, the examiner is authorized to cancel withdrawn claims so as to expedite examination of the application.

Therefore, all the pending claims, Claims 1 - 3, 7 - 20, and 23 - 37 are in condition for allowance. If, however, the Examiner feels that any further issues remain, he is cordially invited to contact the undersigned so that such matters can be promptly resolved.

Respectfully submitted,



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